

## MACEDONIA? What's in a Name - A Rose by Any Other Name, Is It Still A Rose?

Is a rose by any other name still a rose? What if we started calling the "rose" an "onion"? If you had both next to each other, could you point to each and call each an onion? Would one be a real onion and the other a fake onion? Would both smell the same, look the same, have the same texture, color, and all other qualities? If you asked someone for an onion what would he give you? Would your sweetheart appreciate the dozen onions that you sent her for Valentine's Day? You can easily see the confusion that is caused when two entirely different items have the same name.

Now, what happens if one area of our world started calling itself with the same name as a neighboring area? What if this area also took the identity and history of its neighbors? What if this first area becomes a country? Can it now decide to call itself with the same name as its neighbor and the rest of the world recognizes it so?

The Massachusetts Bay Colony consisted of the area of the northern New England states and also encompassed part of what today is the Canadian province of Quebec. Throughout the years, many Quebec inhabitants have migrated from Quebec to the New England states. If Quebec broke away from Canada and became an independent country, would it be suitable to change its name to "New England"? Would it bother anyone if this "New England" hoisted a new flag with New Hampshire's Old Man of the Mountain in the middle of it, printed new currency picturing Boston's Bunker Hill on it, redrew their maps such that their territory is shown going all the way down to Boston and beyond, and revised their history books to indicate the colonial New England history as their own. What should this new country be called so that no one would be confused? Would "New New England", "Northern New England", "Upper New England", "New England (Quebec)" or "New England-Quebec" make it clear to everybody?

We read the above hypothetical situation and think that it is so ridiculous that it could never happen. But, **that is exactly what is happening today right before our eyes** between The FYROM, former Yugoslavia's southern republic, and Macedonia, one of Greece's northern provinces.

Before 1944 the area that later comprised of the former Yugoslavia's southern republic was not called Macedonia but was called Vardarska Banovina (Province -of the river- Vardar). It was in 1944 that (Joseph Broz) Marshal Tito, the Communist dictator ruling Yugoslavia at that time, created Yugoslavia's southern republic and called it "Socialist Republic of Macedonia". However, "Macedonia" was already the name of one of Greece's northern provinces. In ancient times, the land that Macedonia covered included this northern province of Greece, a small part of Bulgaria, a small part of Albania, and a small part of the region that Tito named the Socialist Republic of Macedonia. It is pertinent to note that Tito's Socialist Republic of Macedonia consisted of not only a small part of ancient Macedonia but also **a far larger part from Slavic Yugoslavia**. There is no doubt that creating this Republic in the southern region in Yugoslavia and including "Macedonia" in its name was deliberate with the main intention of laying claim to the region of ancient Macedonia of the northern province of Greece. Particularly, what Tito and his Communist allies wanted was the city of Thessaloniki with its lucrative warm water port.

Then Secretary of State E. Stettinius on December 26th 1944 sent U.S. State Dep. Foreign Relations Vol. VII, Circular Airgram [868.014] to all consular officials to inform them of the act to create a separate "Macedonia," as a "*cloak for aggression against Greece.*" "*The Department has noted with considerable apprehension increasing propaganda rumors and semi-official statements in favor of an autonomous Macedonia emanating from Bulgaria, but also from Yugoslav partisan and other sources with the implication that Greek territory would be included in the projected State. This Government considers talk of "Macedonian Nation", "Macedonian Fatherland", or "Macedonian National Consciousness" to be unjustified demagoguery representing no ethnic or political reality, and sees in its present revival a possible cloak for aggressive intentions against Greece.*"

After 1944 a deliberate and systematic campaign was initiated for Yugoslavia's southern republic to take over the history of ancient Macedonia. "Scholars" from the "People's Republic of Macedonia" were commissioned to re-write their history books to include the ancient Macedonian History according to the wishes of the League of Communists of communist Yugoslavia, accompanied by perverted maps showing their "Macedonia" going all the way down to the northern half of Mount Olympus. Also, "linguists" led by Blagoj Konev, a.k.a. Blaže Koneski, were appointed to create the alphabet for and refine the newly discovered "Macedonian" language, which, of course, was made to sound as if it were the "natural development" of the ancient Macedonian language. Through their control of mass media and education, the government of "People's Republic of Macedonia" then introduced this language and claimed that it is the language that was spoken by the ancient Macedonians. However, this language is grammatically nearly identical to Bulgarian and, due to continuous government interventions, its vocabulary tends to include more Serbo-Croatian words that have replaced the Bulgarian words. **They clearly overlooked the unquestionable fact that the inhabitants of ancient Macedonia were Greeks and spoke the Greek language. Numerous excavations in all of the ancient Macedonia area have consistently unearthed relics clearly with Greek writings, and depictions of rulers clearly designated with Greek names.**

In September of 1991 this republic declared independence from Yugoslavia and it named itself "Republic of Macedonia" as a new independent country. They designed a new flag with the Sun of Vergina at its center and printed new currency with the White Tower of Thessaloniki, symbols clearly from the northern province of Greece. Because of these actions and also because of certain articles in their constitution which implied that their country had territorial rights to all of the ancient Macedonian area, Greece imposed a trade embargo and prevented any trade commerce through Greece's northern border. Greece reluctantly lifted the trade embargo when The FYROM redesigned and accepted a new flag, stopped the issuance of the new currency with the depiction of the White Tower of Thessaloniki, and passed amended articles to their constitution implying that they have no territorial rights outside their present boundaries. Greece, however, continued to object to their use of the name Macedonia. Because of this objection, the United Nations accepted this nation as a new member with the temporary name of "The Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia (The FYROM)" (UN Resolutions #817 of April 7 and #845 of June 18 of 1993) until a permanent solution to the name is found. To this date no solution has been found and the UN deadline of September 13, 2002 has passed by with the two countries only agreeing to extend discussions on this matter for one more year.

The Vergina Sun from the Tomb of Philip excavated in Greece in 1978.

Original 1991 FYROM Flag

Current FYROM Flag



Currency with the White Tower of Thessaloniki which was intended for circulation but was withheld because of objections from Greece. The word in small print under the depiction of the city is "SOLUN" --"THESSALONIKI"

The deliberate and systematic campaign of distortion, stealing and absorption of the history and ethnicity of the ancient Macedonians is ongoing today with full and untiring strength. Although officially this country is known as The FYROM, through a vigorous campaign they have managed to contrive the world to call it Macedonia in common day usage. The Internet and mass-communication has made it easy for them to do this and they have used these tools to create a flood of misinformation. One such example that clearly shows their devious actions is the Web site: <http://faq.macedonia.org/>. Hitler is credited with saying "Tell a big enough lie, tell it often enough, and it becomes the truth". In some way this provides an explanation as to why the inhabitants of The FYROM are so adamant about keeping the name Macedonia. **Now, sixty-plus years after the start of the campaign of distortion, stealing and absorption of the GREEK history and ethnicity of the ancient Macedonians, we find that the inhabitants of The FYROM are mostly the children of 1944 and those that were born afterwards and who grew up with these untruths. To them these have become facts. But, must this go on any longer? Isn't it time to set the record straight?**

What's in a Name? - In a name you have identity, history, ancestry, culture, ethnicity, belonging, cohesiveness, texture, color, and many other qualities. And, it is in the Macedonian names, which those in The FYROM now want to claim as their own, where one of the greatest proofs of the **GREEKNESS** of Macedonia lies. Here are some of countless examples:

Macedonian = **GREEK** for "the tall one"

Amyntas (father of Philip) = **GREEK** for "defender"

Philippos (Philip) = **GREEK** for "one who loves the horse"

Alexandros (Alexander) = **GREEK** for "the protector of man"

Bucephalus (Alexander's beloved horse with a large head)= **GREEK** for "ox-like head "

Aristotle (Alexander's teacher) = **GREEK** for "the best and perfect one"  
Thessaloniki = **GREEK** for "victory over the Thessalians"

Countless historians and other scholars have written extensively about the Greekness of Macedonia. Henry Morgenthau served in Constantinople as US Ambassador (1913-16), served as Vice President of the Relief Committee for the Middle East (1919-21). He was appointed by the League of Nations and served as President of the Greek Refugee Settlement Committee (1923-28) and is known as a most reliable source of historical facts. In 1929 (please note that this was 15 years before the start of the campaign of distortion, stealing and absorption of the Greek history and ethnicity of the ancient Macedonians by Tito's propagandists) Henry Morgenthau published his book "I was sent to Athens", in which he writes:

*"Soon after Athens had reached the height of its glory under Pericles in the Fifth Century, B. C., and had started on its decline, the rise of Macedon under Philip carried **Greek** influence into new regions. The glory of Athens had been based upon sea power, but the conquests of Macedon were the work of land armies— Philip invented the invincible phalanx. Upon Philip's death his son, Alexander the Great, set forth to conquer the whole of the then known world, and as that world in his day lay to the east, his marches were in that direction. In a few years he had overrun the fertile plains and opulent cities of Asia Minor, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia, and had carried his conquests to the gates of Delhi. In all the cities in the intervening countries he left large garrisons of **Greek** soldiers. In many of these countries he founded flourishing new cities. In every place his soldiers were followed by large colonies of **Greek** civilians. The result was that the whole of western Asia, and of what we call the Near East, including Asia Minor, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and northwestern India, was saturated with the **Greek** influence and with **Greek** colonies."*

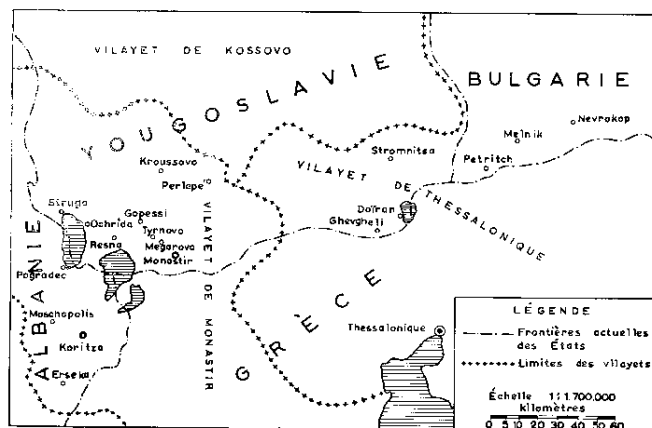
*"The imagination of these conquered peoples was dazzled by the introduction of **Greek** art, literature, philosophy, and public works. Though the successors of Alexander were unable to maintain the political control of the lands he conquered, and though successive waves of Roman, Arabian, and Tartar conquests swept over these lands in succeeding centuries, **none of the later conquerors has been able wholly to eradicate the influence of Greek culture, nor to exterminate that element of population which was of Greek blood.**"*

*"...The Greek War of Independence, which came to a successful conclusion in 1832, affected less than one half of the Greeks in the Turkish Empire. **It did not bring freedom to the Greeks of Macedonia and Thrace, of Crete and the Aegean Islands, nor to the more than two million Greeks in Asia Minor and Constantinople.**"*



The name "Macedonia" for the country north of Greece presently called "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" or "FYROM" is problematic with Greece whose northern province is Macedonia which has links to the Hellenic Macedonian history of the last 3000 years. The name "Macedonia" is also problematic internally to the FYROM because of its varied minorities and in particular its large Albanian minority which comprises approximately 1/3 of its population who do not want to be identified as Macedonians.

During the Ottoman era in the Balkans there was no use of the term Macedonia (meaning the boundaries of the geographic Macedonia). The area occupied by the Ottomans was set up into administrative governmental "vilayets". The geographic Macedonia area was a part of two vilayets; the vilayet of Thessaloniki and the vilayet of Monastiri (Bitola). The Monastiri vilayet contained some part of the geographic Macedonia but also a far larger part from outside the Macedonia Area. Skopje, the present capital of FYROM, was in a separate vilayet, the vilayet of Kossovo which never contained any part of the so-called geographic Macedonia.



*Les villes principales de la Macédoine (en dehors des frontières actuelles de la Grèce) qui entretenaient des écoles grecques au début du XXe siècle.*

By virtue of the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and the Bucharest Peace Treaty from July 28, (August 10th) 1913, the Treaty of Neuilly (14/27) in November 1919 and by Sevres Peace Treaty from July 28 (August 10th) 1920, the recaptured region was divided among four Balkan countries Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Montenegro. With respect to the geographic Macedonian area that was contained in the

recaptured area, a large part remained in Greece and smaller parts given to Bulgaria, the FYROM (Serbia at that time) and Albania. The percentages that are commonly mentioned that were received by the countries that liberated the area from the Ottomans-“Greece received 52%, “Macedonia” 38%, and Bulgaria 10%,” **do not correspond to geographic Macedonia**, but to the area liberated from the Turks by the four allies (Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Montenegro) of the three vilayets; Kossovo, Monastiry and Thessaloniki. That is, the area that was liberated was the area of the Ottoman vilayets of which the geographic Macedonia was a part of and a smaller portion of the whole liberated area. Actually Greece received 75% of the geographic Macedonia.

FYROM’s total area is about 93 miles from north to south by 146 miles from east to west. Only about its first 20 to 30 miles from the northern border of Greece is from the geographic Macedonian area. That is, only about 1/5th to no more than 2/5ths of FYROM’s land is from the geographic Macedonian area. Even Skopje, its capital, is outside of this region. The other 4/5ths to 3/5ths of FYROM's land was originally part of Paionia (with Capital the town of Stip, and Veles as one of its main trading centers) and part of Dardania, which had Skopje as its capital. This area was never a part of the geographic Macedonia, including its capital, Skopje, as this part was in the Kossovo vilayet which, as mentioned, was totally outside of the geographic Macedonian area and the Monastiri vilayet which only had a small part of the geographic Macedonian area. If the entire region of The FYROM were from ancient Macedonia they would have some legitimate claim for The FYROM to be called Macedonia. **But it is not.** Over **90%** of the ancient Macedonian area is outside of The FYROM's borders and less than **1/5** of its own land within its borders is from the ancient Macedonian area. **The FYROM is clearly mostly a Slavic region.**

Over 360 World -Renowned scholars of Graeco-Roman antiquity sent a letter to U.S. President Obama (See: <http://macedonia-evidence.org/>) attesting that the true Macedonia is in today’s Greece where it has always been and the fact that all archeological evidence, and with no evidence to the contrary, indicate that the Macedonians were Greek. If a vast majority of the inhabitants in The

FYROM were Greeks, they would have some legitimate claim to have this country named Macedonia. **But they are not.** The Greek inhabitants in The FYROM are a small minority.

So where does their claim for The FYROM to be called Macedonia **in any form** comes from? There is **no valid reason, which is based on truth** for this country to have any form of a name that contains "Macedonia" in it.

Presently, internal strife between the various minorities within The FYROM, has placed the country on the verge of collapse. Albania (since about **1/3** of The FYROM 2,000,000 inhabitants is ethnically Albanian) and Bulgaria are anxiously waiting on the sidelines for this to happen to quickly rush in and grab a piece of it. On the other hand, Greece has been and maintains a position of a staunch supporter for the survival of this country. Isn't it ironic that The FYROM continues to slap Greece, its one and only friend of the region, in the face with the "Macedonian Name Issue"?

Given these facts, **a correct and just solution to the present problem FOR ALL CONCERNED** is for the FYROM to choose a neutral name such as **"DARDANIA or PAIONIA"** to reflect this area's true ancient name or ***REPUBLIC of VARDAR*** (from Vardarska Banovina -Province of the Vardar river- as this area was called prior to 1944) or a prestigious name like ***CENTRAL BALKAN REPUBLIC*** that would be suitable to all its people and also to its neighbors. This would serve as a unifying force for the various factions within its borders, would eliminate the name controversy with its neighbors, and would put them on the road to their proper identity, ethnicity, heritage and most of all dignity.

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With historical assistance from Marcus Templar

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For further information please visit <http://www.panmacedonian.info> or <http://www.greece.org/themis/macedonia/>



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